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INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 1026  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 4578  
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION Q IRAQ - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Most Thursday morning papers front-paged an announcement Wednesday by Toyota Motor Corp. that Japan's largest automaker recorded a group operating profit of 2.24 trillion in fiscal 2006, becoming the first Japanese firm to earn 2 trillion yen in profits, buoyed by robust sales of its vehicles and a weaker yen.

1. "Iraq Situation: Utilize Framework for Stabilizing Iraq" The moderate Tokyo Shimbun editorialized (5/10): "At the recent foreign ministerial on the security and stability of Iraq held in Egypt, representatives from about 50 countries, including Iraq's neighboring nations, Japan and other G-8 nations, as well as UN Secretary General Ban, pledged efforts to tighten Iraq's border security and promote national reconciliation. The restoration of security is a minimal condition for Iraq's reconstruction. Foreign officials attending the ministerial urged the Maliki government to reinforce Iraqi security forces, put the constitution in place and to review the purge of Baath Party members from the government. It will not be easy for the Shiite Maliki government, which, supported by US military power, wrested power from the minority Sunni leadership. As UN Secretary General Ban said, chaos in Iraq can no longer

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be left to the Iraqi government alone to solve. If this chaos becomes protracted, it may inflict confusion or other negative effects on neighboring nations. In this sense, we welcome the creation of a framework of support for Iraq as a major development.... It is also meaningful that the US had talks, although short, on the sidelines with Syria and Iran, both of which exert major influences on armed Iraqi insurgents, hopefully opening the way for bringing an end to sectarian violence."

